

AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

February 16, 2011

0222

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We are writing regarding the two orphan counties in Colorado, Montezuma and La Plata. These two counties are currently denied the ability to obtain in-state broadcasts due to the existing inflexibility and structure of the Designated Market Areas (DMA). As the FCC commences its investigation on the subject of orphan counties, we write to express our commitment to secure the citizens of these counties the ability to view local and state programming including, but not limited to, news, weather and public emergency notifications. This issue is critical to the residents of these counties, as their inability to receive local and state broadcasts has rendered them isolated from their native state.

During the last three years, this bipartisan matter has garnered both the support of the Colorado Congressional Delegation and the State of Colorado. In 2008 and 2010, the Colorado State Legislature passed resolutions urging the FCC and the federal government to address the longstanding issue of orphan counties in Colorado. Now more than ever, we are dedicated to working with you and others to find a reasonable solution that provides the residents of these two counties access to Colorado programming in addition to the programming they are already receiving.

We thank you in advance for taking the time to consider these comments. Given the seriousness of this issue, it is our hope the FCC will address this matter in an expeditious and pragmatic manner.

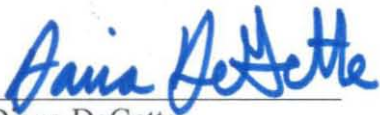
Sincerely,



Mark Udall
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

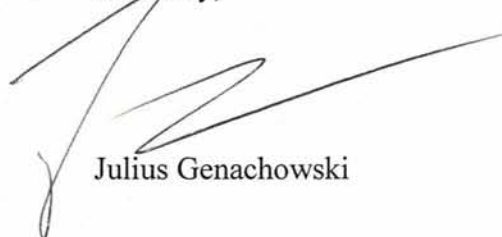
Thank you for your comments in the Commission's proceedings to implement the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). I share your concern that some satellite television consumers in Colorado and other states may not have access to programming that originates from television stations licensed to communities in their states.

Federal law – even following passage of STELA – requires that satellite television carriers use the Designated Market Area (DMA) as defined by the Nielsen Company to determine which television stations to include in their local programming packages. Recognizing that this requirement may limit the availability of in-state programming to some consumers, however, STELA directs the Commission to prepare a report that, among other things, examines whether there are alternatives to use of Nielsen DMAs. The Commission issued a *Public Notice* on November 23, 2010, seeking public input for this report. The Commission is required to submit its findings to Congress in August 2011. I am enclosing a copy of the *Public Notice* for your information, and will ensure that your letter is included in the record of this proceeding.

Also on November 23, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order* implementing provisions of STELA designed to make the carriage of “significantly viewed” out-of-market stations easier for satellite television providers. I am hopeful that in the wake of this *Order*, satellite carriers will expand the availability of significantly viewed television signals to consumers, including those in Colorado.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Mike Coffman
U.S. House of Representatives
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Coffman:

Thank you for your comments in the Commission's proceedings to implement the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). I share your concern that some satellite television consumers in Colorado and other states may not have access to programming that originates from television stations licensed to communities in their states.

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Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

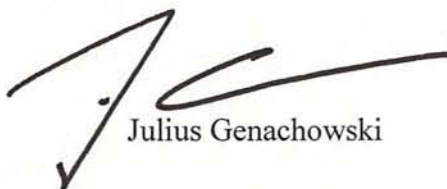
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Julius Genachowski

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
U.S. House of Representatives
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lamborn:

Thank you for your comments in the Commission's proceedings to implement the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). I share your concern that some satellite television consumers in Colorado and other states may not have access to programming that originates from television stations licensed to communities in their states.

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OFFICE OF
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gardner:

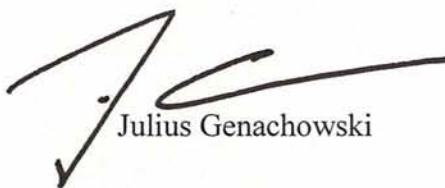
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
U.S. House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

Thank you for your comments in the Commission's proceedings to implement the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). I share your concern that some satellite television consumers in Colorado and other states may not have access to programming that originates from television stations licensed to communities in their states.

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
501 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

Thank you for your comments in the Commission's proceedings to implement the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). I share your concern that some satellite television consumers in Colorado and other states may not have access to programming that originates from television stations licensed to communities in their states.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Scott Tipton
U.S. House of Representatives
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tipton:

Thank you for your comments in the Commission's proceedings to implement the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). I share your concern that some satellite television consumers in Colorado and other states may not have access to programming that originates from television stations licensed to communities in their states.

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Julius Genachowski

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OFFICE OF
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Mark Udall
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your comments in the Commission's proceedings to implement the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA). I share your concern that some satellite television consumers in Colorado and other states may not have access to programming that originates from television stations licensed to communities in their states.

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